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## Reds Seen Trimming U.S. Missile Lead in '65

LONDON (AP) — The United States still will have more than a 4-to-1 edge over the Soviet Union in intercontinental ballistic missiles by early 1965, but the Soviets may begin catching up after that, a leading British research institute estimated today.

The annual review of the Institute of Strategic Studies also said the Soviet Union is maintaining its numerical superiority in submarine strength and "there are indications that the Soviet naval air force and missile-firing submarines are coming to play a more central role in her strategy."

America's Strategic Air Command has clear superiority in the number of intercontinental bombers, the review reported, but the Soviet Union maintains a strong force of medium bombers capable of strikes at Japan or Western Europe.

### Assessment of China

The review said Communist China's army has little strategic mobility, because of primitive logistics, and its air force has only obsolescent aircraft.

But, it said, the Chinese nuclear test has shown that the Chinese nuclear technology is apparently considerably more advanced than it was generally given credit for.

The Institute of Strategic Studies researches problems on defense, world security and disarmament.

It is a private organization which has close ties with the British Defense Ministry and gets its information from a network of more than 30 correspondents around the world, many of them British military attaches. Lord Attlee, the former prime minister, is its president.

(The ISS figures are roughly accurate but somewhat out of date compared with information

available in the Pentagon. The four-to-one margin was announced by Secretary of Defense McNamara April 14.

(Since then new intelligence estimates, reported in The Star, have concluded that the Soviet Union is carrying on a slow buildup that probably will permit the rapid American buildup to increase its numerical margin through the next few years.

Today the United States has exactly 878 operational ICBMs. Russia has slightly fewer than 200 ready to fire. In January, 1964, the United States had 548; Russia a few more than 100.

(Present plans call for 1,254 operational American ICBMs in the late 1960s. Intelligence estimates—which have almost always been too high in the past—say Russia will have several hundred but considerably fewer than 1,000 at that time.)

### 200 ICBMs to Grow

The ISS review said the Soviet Union has 200 intercontinental ballistic missiles—double the number a year ago—and this may increase substantially in 1965.

But by early 1965, the United States will have 925 ICBMs, compared with 745 a year earlier.

"However," the report said, "this may be the last year in which the Western superiority in long-range striking power is so marked as the American ICBM program becomes substantially completed next year,

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and if the Soviet missile buildup is continued under Premier Alexei N. Kosygin and First Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev."

The review also reported:

"There is no sign of any significant reduction in the number of the 750 Soviet intermediate range missiles IRBMs targeted on Western Europe and Japan, or in its force of 1,400 medium bombers.

"The United States has increased its lead over the Soviet Union in fleet ballistic missiles from under 2-to-1 to 4-to-1 during the past year.

"The Soviet Union is building about 10 nuclear-powered submarines a year.

"A reduction in Soviet conventional military power seems unlikely."

The institute gave this comparison of American and Soviet military strength:

Total armed forces: U.S.—2.3 million men, Soviet—3.3 million

ICBMs: U.S.—800, Soviet—200

Air force manpower: U.S.—840,000, Soviet—510,000.

Aircraft: U.S.—1,100 strategic bombers, half on 15-minute alert, a small number of airborne alert, no figure for other planes; Soviet—10,500 to 11,500 operational planes, intercontinental bomber strength considerably below the American.

Army: U.S.—972,000 men organized into 16 operational divisions; Soviet—2.2 million men thought to be organized in 140 divisions including 26 in Eastern Europe and 75 in Siberia.

Navy manpower: U.S.—668,500; Soviet—460,000.

Submarines: U.S.—26 Polaris-armed subs in service; when the program for building 41 Polaris submarines is completed in mid-1967, total strength will be 656 missiles; Soviet—400 conventional and 30 nuclear-powered submarines, at least 40 submarines armed with ballistic missiles, some with limited capacity for submerged firing.